



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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July 16, 2021

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The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Jordan:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing 241,000 rank-and-file law enforcement officers from across the United States, I would like to advise you of our opposition to the Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law (EQUAL) Act. This legislation ignores the concerns raised by NAPO and the law enforcement community that crack cocaine has proven to be more accessible on the streets and thus presents a greater danger to our nation's communities and law enforcement.

As crack is usually sold in much smaller quantities than powder cocaine, NAPO believes that tinkering with the current sentencing structure will negatively affect the work law enforcement has done to protect our nation's communities from the crime and violence associated with crack cocaine. It is turning a blind eye to the fact that crack cocaine has had, and continues to inflict, an absolutely devastating effect upon our communities.

The reduction of crack cocaine penalties will only accelerate the destruction brought to our neighborhoods by those convicted of federal crack offenses. This reduced sentencing will lead to a cyclical pattern of abuse, apprehension, and release. It will do nothing to abate the plague of crack cocaine upon individuals, families, and communities.

As the Committee examines federal sentencing for criminal offenses involving crack cocaine, NAPO respectfully urges you consider our serious concerns with the EQUAL Act to ensure just sentencing and the protection of our communities. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director